

**Remarks:**

1. **Objections and Rejections**

The title is objected to as non-descriptive and the disclosure stands objected to as allegedly containing certain informalities. The Office Action objects to the drawings as allegedly failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include all of the reference numerals appearing in the specification. The Office Action also objects to claim 6 as allegedly failing to differentiate the claimed apparatus from the prior art. In view of the foregoing amendments to the title; to the disclosure; and to the claims, especially, to claim 6, Applicant respectfully traverses these objections.

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2, as allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly anticipated by Patent No. US 6,217,374 B1 to Sullivan. Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly rendered obvious by Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0064625 A1 to Ozai in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,643,010 to Wu and further in view of allegedly admitted prior art. Claim 9 also stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly rendered obvious by Sullivan in view of Patent No. US 6,312,294 B1 to Lai. Nevertheless, Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that the Examiner indicates that claims 4, 5, and 10 and 11 “**might**” be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of their base claim, claim 1 or 7, and any intervening claims. In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicant respectfully traverses.

2. **Indefiniteness**

Claims 1-11 stand rejected as allegedly indefinite. In particular, the Office Action is unclear what is meant by the axial direction and contact pitch direction and the distinction between width and thickness. Further, the Office Action contends that the phrase “formed zigzag” is not accurate and suggests alternative phrases. Applicant is clarifying the claims by reducing the number of directions referenced in the claims and by replacing the phrase “formed zigzag” with an alternative phrase. Therefore, Applicant respectfully traverses the indefiniteness rejections and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw those rejections.

a. Directions

As amended, claims 1-3, 5-9, 11, and 12 now only refer to first, second, and third directions. Nevertheless, with regard to the Office Action's remarks about axial direction and contact pitch direction, Applicant notes that the axial direction is indicated with respect to plug connector body 65 by arrow 69 depicted in **Fig. 4B**. Appl'n, Para. [0045]. The axial direction of contact 51 depicted with respect to plug connector body 65 corresponds to the longitudinal direction of the contact described at Para. [0045]. As used in Para. [0044], however, the phrase "longitudinal direction" is used to describe the relative position of components of contact 51. See Appl'n, Para. [0037] (referring to the "longitudinal direction" with respect to contact 23).

Similarly, with regard to the Office Action's remarks about the distinction between width and thickness, Applicant notes that the term "width" is used to describe the measurement of a portion of a contact in its thickness direction. Referring to **Fig. 3A**, Applicant describes "terminal portion 29 [of contact 23] having a width in a thickness direction of contact 23 . . ." Appl'n, Para. [0037]. Moreover, referring to **Fig. 4D**, "numeral 6 denotes the width (height) of the contact." Appl'n, Para. [0046].

Finally, with respect to the phrase "contact pitch direction," this direction is the direction along which the contacts are arrayed across the connector. Thus, the contact pitch is a measure of the separation between contacts. Referring to **Figs. 4A and 4D**, connecting portion 59 is formed obliquely to the contact pitch direction, i.e., the second direction.

b. "Formed Zigzag"

With respect to claims 2 and 8, the Office Action contends that the phrase "formed zigzag" is not accurate. In order to clarify claims 2 and 8, Applicant is replacing the phrase "formed zigzag" with the phrase "staggered alternately."

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully traverses the indefiniteness rejections. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the indefiniteness rejections.

3. Anticipation

As noted above, claims 7 and 8 stand rejected as allegedly anticipated by Sullivan. In order to anticipate, the cited reference must disclose each and every element of the claimed invention. For the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully traverses.

Applicant is re-writing claim 7 to include the limitations of claim 10. In view of this amendment and the Examiner's remarks to the effect that claim 10 "**might**" be

allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of their base claim, claim 7; Applicant contends that the rejections of claim 7 and of claim 8, which depends from claim 7, are moot. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the anticipation rejections of claims 7 and 8.

4. Obviousness

As noted above, claims 1-3 stand rejected as allegedly rendered obvious by Ozai in view of Wu and further in view of allegedly admitted prior art, and claim 9 also stands rejected as allegedly rendered obvious by Sullivan in view of Lai. In order for the Office Action to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, at least three criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the reference itself or the combined references or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or combine the cited references, in the manner proposed by the Office Action. Second, the prior art reference or references must disclose or suggest all the claim limitations. Third, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. MPEP 2143. In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicant maintains that claims 1 and 7 now contain the allowable subject matter of claim 4 and 10, respectively. Therefore, Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claims 2, 3, 5, and 6 depend from amended claim 1, and claims 8, 9, and 11 and new claim 12 depend from amended claim 7. "If an independent claim is non-obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious." MPEP 2143.03 (citations omitted). Therefore, because the cited references fail to render amended claims 1 or 7 obvious, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the obviousness rejections of claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, and 11, as well, and to allow claims 8 and 12.

Conclusion:

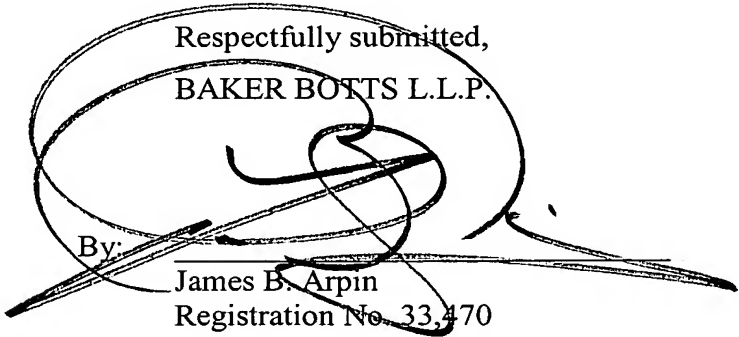
Applicant respectfully submits that this application, as amended, is in condition for allowance, and such disposition is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that an interview with Applicant's representatives, either in person or by telephone, would expedite prosecution of this application, we would welcome such an opportunity. Applicant believes that no fees are due as a result of this Responsive Amendment. Nevertheless, in the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicant and the fees determined by

the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, please charge or credit such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 02-0375.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Dated: July 6, 2004

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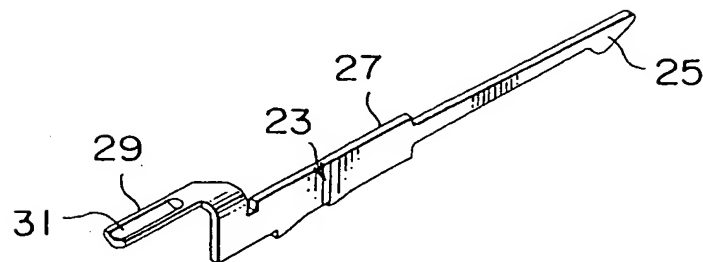
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James B. Arpin  
Registration No. 33,470

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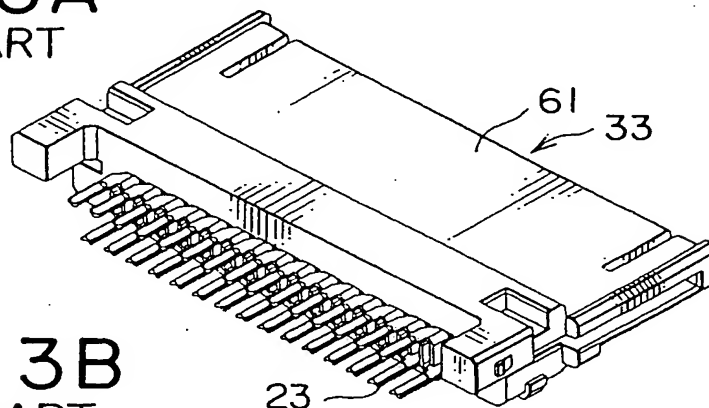
Enclosures

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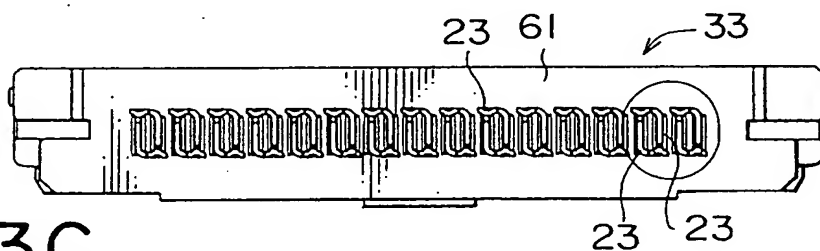
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Amdt Dated July 6, 2004  
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Annotated Sheet Showing Changes (1 of 2)



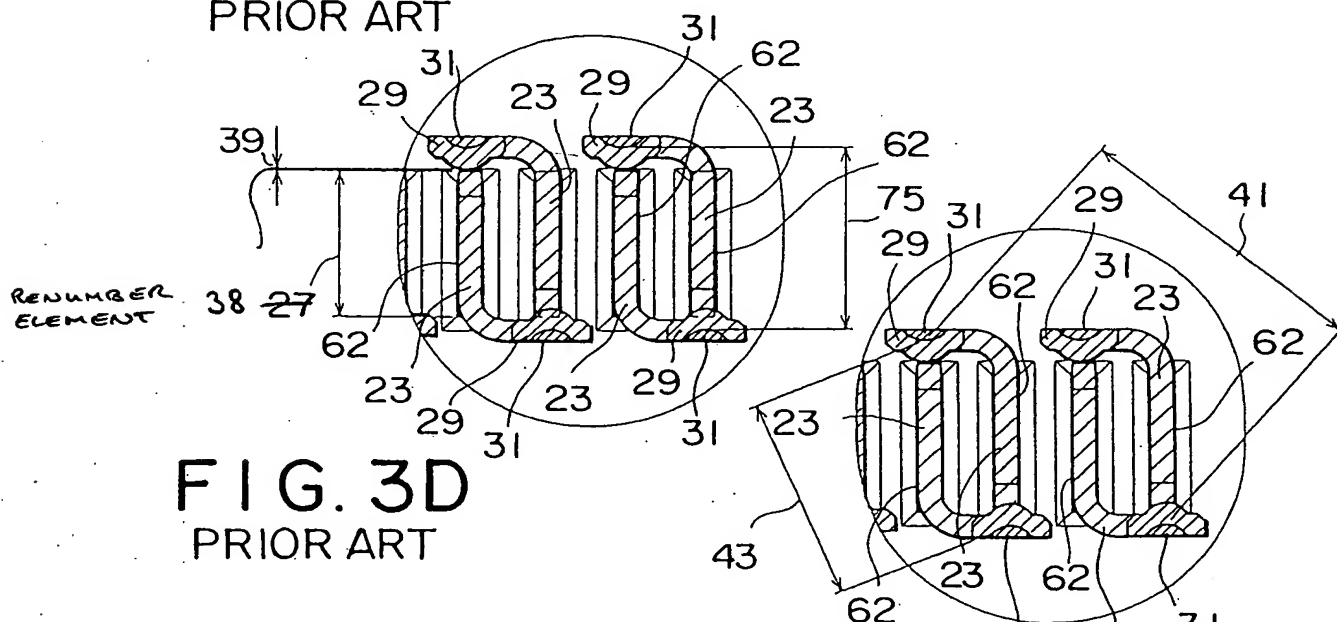
**FIG. 3A**  
PRIOR ART



**FIG. 3B**  
PRIOR ART



**FIG. 3C**  
PRIOR ART



**FIG. 3D**  
PRIOR ART

**FIG. 3E**  
PRIOR ART

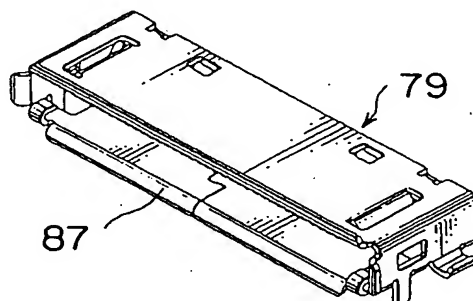
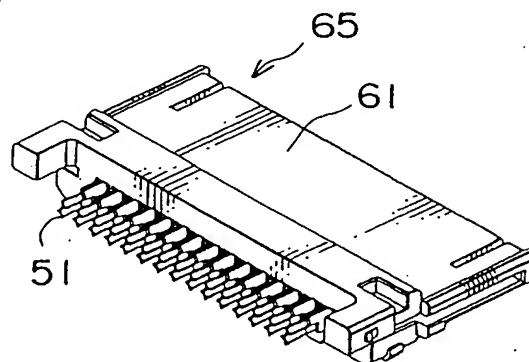
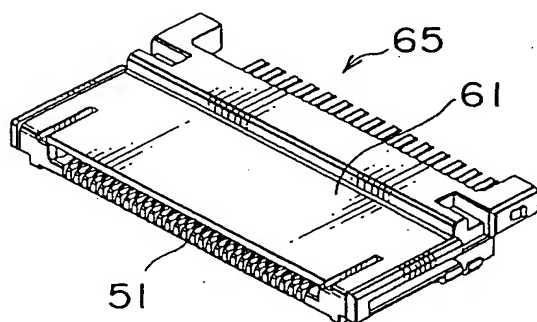
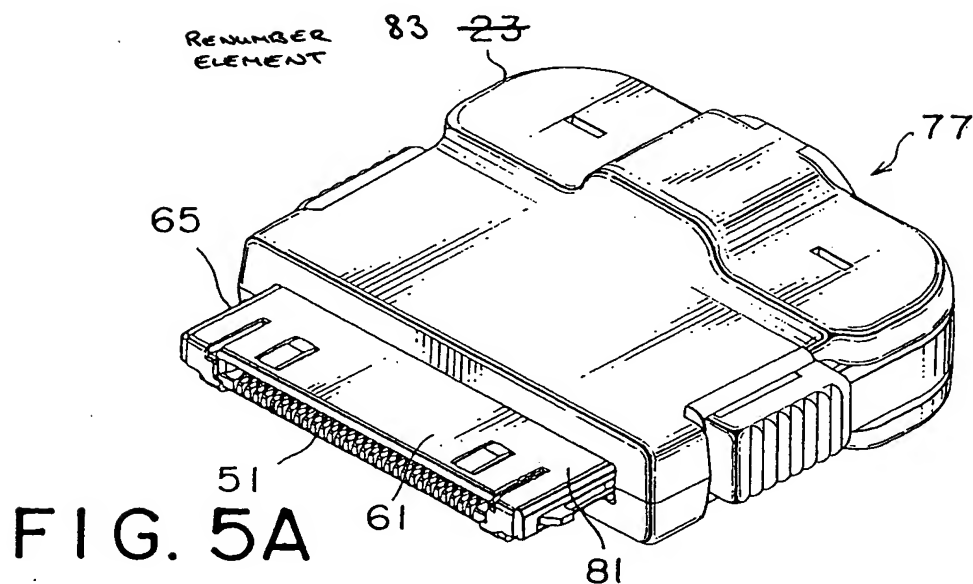


FIG. 5D 7

RENUMBER  
FIGURE